

# News Release

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## California State Parks Outdoor Youth Program Awarded \$133,000 from Stewardship Council

### Grant aimed at youth program expansion

State Parks, the Parks Foundation and the Pacific Leadership Institute received a \$133,000 grant from the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council this week. The grant will be used to introduce underserved youth in San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland and Stockton to the outdoors and to develop leadership skills in teens to lead outdoor trips in their communities.

“Expanding our youth development and stewardship programs into the Central Valley and Bay Area are a key part of our Central Valley Vision and urban strategy,” said California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “Kids in California all deserve an opportunity to connect to the California’s wildlands.”

In addition to California State Parks, the partnership includes the California State Parks Foundation and the Pacific Leadership Institute, which is an affiliate of San Francisco State’s Recreation and Leisure Studies Department.

The Stewardship Council’s partnership grants are designed to support long-term collaborative ventures focused on connecting California youth to the outdoors.

The grant is one of 10 grants awarded to organizations in Northern and Central California. It will be used by State Parks and its partners to expand its FamCamp® program and Youth Leadership Institute. The partnership includes support from the cities of San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, and Stockton. These cities will provide youth participants

from their Parks and Recreation Department programs as well as identify other community based organizations serving youth that will benefit from this project.

“The Stewardship Council intends to build healthy kids and create future stewards of the outdoors by supporting efforts such as those by the California State Parks’ FamCamp program and Youth Leadership Institute,” said Jayne Battey, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council. “We also hope to inspire others to join in our efforts by making an impact on the lives of underserved youth in our state.”

### The Partners:

State Parks brings together the resources of 278 California State Parks, staff and community outreach programs like Youth Leadership Institute and FamCamp®. These programs can be replicated in other parts of the state as a youth development model utilizing outdoor recreation.

FamCamp® has introduced first time campers to the outdoors since 1995, by providing equipment and campsites at no charge to community groups. Begun in 2001, State Parks Youth Leadership Institute participants, ages 15 -17 develop skills, networks, and resources to lead outdoor trips/projects for their community.

The nonprofit California State Parks Foundation oversees program collaboration and adds expertise fiscal management and coalition building.

Pacific Leadership Institute, an acknowledged Bay Area leader in youth development, brings to the project its innovative teen mentoring program Project Lead, and adventure experiences along with the research expertise of San Francisco State University to document the impacts of programs. California State Parks Foundation and the California State Parks Office of Community Involvement and Pacific Leadership Institute will jointly manage the program.

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